**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 17 Taking the Scenic Route**

**Walking with Jesus – in his steps – with his disciples - Gospel of Mark. Gospel = Good lifechanging amazing news of Jesus!**

**We are going verse by verse though the Gospel of Mark.**

**Jesus has revealed himself as God in the flesh through amazing miracles (raising the dead, healing, calming storms, fed thousands plus) blowing the disciple away - the religious crowd is getting more angry.**

**Map – Jesus left Tyre for a little R&R set a woman’s daughter free - Mark 7:31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. (locations put a footprint on the reality of Jesus actual presence in this world - they knew these places)**

**He goes from one gentile area to another… the long way.**

**We can learn between the lines…**

**The writers did not tell us everything about Jesus**

**A trip that would have taken a few months - like walking from Dallas to Little Rock over mountainous terrain. 20% of ministry time. Mark only tell us a woman in Tyre and man in Decapolis.**

**Why the silence? Shortly after he leaves Galilee, he heads to Judea - and speaks more and more about his death. Perhaps he was taking the last quite opportunities to be alone with his disciple to prepare them…**

**Mark 7:31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 There some people brought to him (I am thankful for the friends and family who bring us to Jesus – this was another gentile – the bottom of the Jewish barrel) a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. 33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, (Did not do it in front of others – often took people aside - it was never about a show or healing service - look at me! Jesus is considerate - not a spectacle) Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. (Gross Why? The man was deaf – it communicated to the man – that he will open his ears and touch his tongue)**

**Between the lines…**

**Jesus does not see you as a problem but a person**

**God cares about. You are not a number – another check or testimony to tell – or use as promotion. Personal.**

**Sometimes Jesus used a word other times it was a task. You are not a number God deals with you personally. Even the least likely. No box recipes with Jesus. You are a person; they are a person – Jesus loves!**

**Mark 7:34 He looked up to heaven (telling the deaf man who can see where the healing is coming from) and with a deep sigh (groan) said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means “Be opened!”). (the man could see the body language – the deep sigh and groan – he could feel Jesus deep concern)**

**He did not need to do this – he did this for him. It’s beautiful how Jesus connects with his man. Jesus cares!!**

**35 At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak plainly. (that’s the power of God) 36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.**

**Why not tell? As we saw earlier in Mark – he did this because he was not trying to gather a crowd that wanted miracles – but rather to preach the kingdom and prepare his disciples.**

**37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. (I can’t help it) “He has done everything well,” (everything he does is perfect and good – totally ligit) they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”**

**If you do not know Jesus… let me speak to you for a moment. If you will come to Jesus today, you will find that He does all things well. He can save your soul – change your life. Come see for yourself. “Taste and see that the Lord is good…” – Ps 34:8**

**Map – Mark 8:1 During those days another large crowd gathered.**

**Pic – What Decapolis is like… area and wealth – very gentile.**

**Between the lines…**

**Jesus is the God of a second chance – and third, and forth, and…**

**This was the same area he was chased out (Mark 5:17 He cast out demons from a man into a bunch of pigs – freaked out, they wanted him out!)**

**He intentionally returns to the place where he was rejected and chased off. It would have been justified for him to never come back, but he did not give on them. Jesus gave them another chance.**

**Aren’t you glad Jesus did not give up on you? I am thankful that he kept loving me and drawing me to himself.**

**As we see again and again w/ Jesus no one is off limits for the gospel. Jesus is making it clear to his disciples – Don’t give up on people.**

**Between the lines…**

**Jesus uses our story to change other’s stories**

**Same area he was chased out is now the place the crowds are begging for him to stay- why the change? How did they know?**

**Mark 5:20 (Gadarene man set free - spread the good news of Jesus.) 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.**

**What a great encouragement for those who know the Lord and care for loved ones - don’t give up on those around you! Keep living the life of Jesus, keep speaking the truth/ hope of Jesus.**

**In the same Gentile area - Mark 8:1 During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 2“I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. (hard to keep attention of people for an hour – but 3 days!! I would love to see how long you stay.) 3If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.” (Jesus truly loves people – sign of a great shepherd - cares for the sheep and spends time with the sheep.)**

**4 His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” (let’s see if he does that food thing again…) 5“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied. 6He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. 7They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them.**

**8The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. (word for basket here is large body size basket – that’s big) 9About four thousand were present. (Again, he miraculously feeds thousands of people – this time to a bunch of gentiles. it’s for everyone! Feeding them the word of God and feeding them practically.)**

**Like the last time – it was a remote location, using a very small amount of food to feed a lot of people. This was not slight of hand or calming a seizure = it is an undeniable miracle.**

**Between the lines… (sometimes you need reminders)**

**Jesus can do more with what you give him than you ever imagine.**

**\*\* Get what you have into his hands. Your talents, resources, abilities, treasures – give it to Jesus!!**

**“How much do you have?” Ridiculous question - not enough.**

**Until you give it me. He gets 7 small loaves, and he gives thanks for them.**

**Are you able to give thanks for the little you have?**

**Jesus is able to supply every area of need in your life!! And it always exceeds the need! Our God is not a stingy God!! He has more than enough love, mercy, grace than you will ever need – and more!**

**They ended with more than they started with - many are afraid to give God their life & resources in fearing they will have less.**

**Mark 8:2 “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. (5X Gospels Jesus says, “I have compassion on them”)**

**Between the lines:**

**Jesus is the bread of life and the savior who cares about your needs**

**Jesus cares about the spiritual needs of your life and he cares about the practical needs of your life.**

**Cast all your worries on him for he cares for you! 1 Peter 5:7**

**Map - Look what’s next - After he had sent them away, 10he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha. (back to Jewish areas)**

**Mark 8:11 The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, (You know what was not in the gentile areas – hypocrites – religious hypocrites) they asked him for a sign from heaven. (we heard you are feeding thousands, healing the sick and raising the dead – prove it! Call down fire like Elijah show us something really big – this was an attack – He could – why not it would prove who he was to them…) 12He sighed deeply (outwardly frustrated with them) and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.” 13Then he left them, (had enough- peace out - refuses to play their game) got back into the boat and crossed to the other side. (there’s your sign)**

**Between the lines… Jesus did not do miracles to convince people, he did them because he loved people.**

**Show us your power God- show us a sign - show us a miracle - churches / worship that attempts to call down fire – give us a sign**

**“Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.” (people are still chasing signs – If you are seeking a sign from God you may get silence from God.)**

**Those that think if they could see a miracle, they would believe – trust me they won’t – they are not seeking Jesus. We must be content to seek his face, even if we never see his hands.**

**Between the line… Miracles and signs are not the solution.**

**The Pharisees had seen enough to be convinced and heard enough teaching from Jesus to save the world - but demanded more. More!!! It was never enough.**

**They were not looking for proof they were looking for an excuse… they are just making excuses. Usually when a sign is given – another is expected and desired – thus a cycle… of more, more, more**

**Signs can’t save us only faith in Jesus – He is not in the sign business – he is in the salvation business.**

**Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim your works! We have a sign – nature and the people around us- we take for granted -**

**If you are waiting for a sign… you might be waiting all the way to hell.**

**(on a boat crossing over) Mark 8:14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. (Doe!! Who grabbed the bread? – I thought you had it!! They were worried) 15“Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” (leaven ball – a stinky mucus ball of bacteria that was added to bread to get it to rise – to puff up) 16They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.” (clueless… Don’t buy bread for the Pharisees? Is he saying that because we forgot bread – idot!) 17Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? (They were not hearing between the lines – clueless) And don’t you remember? 19When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” “Twelve,” they replied. 20“And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.” 21He said to them, “Do you still not understand?**

**Between the lines…**

**Not every pastor of political leader who claims to know me really does.**

**Pharisees religious leaders & politicians – are in it for themselves.**

**They are not there for people – no there to give – but to take.**

**Beware lest you make my life about you.**

**15 “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast (leaven) of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” - Leaven in the Bible refers to a picture of sin and hypocrisy and the affects it has as a whole. (1 Co 5:6-7)**

**A little hypocrisy – a little selfishness – a little arrogance, pride… can be dangerous. Warning of their hypocritical hearts. Lives infiltrated w/ materialism, power, and compromise.**

**But they were missing the point… Jesus is mad at us about the bread. Knowing this… Jesus starts asking questions that reminded them of his goodness and faithfulness in their life.**

**Between the lines… (they were struggling to see between the lines.)**

**Don’t worry so much, if you’re with me – I got you!**

**Don’t be like them – they are constantly looking for proof that God is with them. You saw what I did – you know what I can do – I will take care of you. Don’t worry - TRUST me!**

**The real point of this - sometimes we don’t see and hear what God is saying. Sometimes we don’t remember what God has done and is doing.**

**You might know his word, and have experienced his power – but ultimately you need faith in who he is.**

**Don’t worry so much, if you’re with Jesus – He’s got you!**